

HUR OPERATIONS IN SIND

POST MARTIAL LAW

IV

Maj. Gen: (Retd.) Wisal Mohammad Khan.

The civil administration was rehabilitated and the troops replaced by the frontier constabulary and Sind Rifles as it was considered that the Sind Police alone may not be able to cope with the situation. To tackle the civil administration the hurs decided to introduce corruption and rivalry amongst the petty officials. The senior officials will then have to sort out the problems confronting them and they would not be in a position to concentrate all their energy and efforts against the criminals.

The Hurs further planned to receive useful information constantly and to deny to the authorities information about the brotherhood. In order to achieve their aim they decided to eliminate the faithless deciples and other locals who were spying on them. They soon caught up with such undesirable element and killed them ruthlessly. Some of the traitors claimed police protections for their own security but even there most of them were written off. The civil administration followed the foot steps of the Martial Law Regime and removed people from huts and hamlets in the area surrounding Sanghar to a few concentration Camps and large villages with the government agents deployed in the area.

In July 1946 the Hurs planned to derail the Lahore Mail and therefore removed the fish plates from the railway line in Bahawalpur State area. As the said train was running two hours late and a goods train preceding it got derailed. The administration decided to trap the Fakirs and to the best of my knowledge it succeeded in its efforts to a great extent. The administration also concentrated their energy on recovering the Pirs treasure, arms and ammunition alledged to have been buried in various places but all in vain, as nothing was found. The said information was also palmed on to us but we did not bite at the bait so we rejected it as concoction and therefore treated it with contempt it deserved.

Even after the creation of Pakistan the Hurs continued their rebellious activities therefore it became apparent that they were not satisfied even with the new State. It now dawned on the civil officials that only a living Pir could keep the brotherhood in control. The main problem was that the Hurs would not accept a Pir as long as they believed that Pir Sabghat Ullah was alive. Hence considerable publicity was given to the death of the said Pir and to the accession of his eldest son, Sikandar Shah, to the gadi, the spiritual throne. Luckily he was accepted by the Hurs as the

and demeanour was a likeable and pleasant person. He was a very knowledgeable man on agriculture, irrigation and politics. He was an effective and powerful public and parliamentary speaker and debator but he could never understand the aspirations and the rising of the masses and the democratic change and awakening of the people. For Pakistan politician in general till 1969 time never appeared to move.

Khuhro's politics was that of dietary entertainments of the parlours and otaks and Shikars of Waderas. He was col. Blimp of Pakistan politics and the General Smith of Macaulay's description.

Khuhro had an impressive personality and carried a reputation of strength in his name. He was a man under whom mischief makers and en-triguers could thrive and he had to pay the price of their tomfoolery and treachery. He was a politician who faced every kind of political victimization except death. His can be one of the most informative and revealing biographies in Pakistan, if his daughter Dr. Hamida Khuhro will attempt it. With all his loss of activity and vigour in late years, he leaves indelible memories of his qualities among his friends and admirers. In his death he passed away as a colossus. His name will be remembered by the generations which had seen him and worked with him.

Mohammad Ayoob Khuhro was a very well educated and well trained man. His schooling in Sind Madressah, The D.J. Sind College, and the politics of Sind and India was consummate. He was fond of books and journals and he was a regular reader of standard literature. Another politician in Pakistan with such great background but chequered history we will not find.

انا لله وانا اليه راجعون

“Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim in the blood of his fellows and the sacrifices of his friends.”

D.D. Eisenhower.

“First and foremost today, the Welfare State means the State controlling the way in which the woman does her job in the home servicing the workers and bringing up their children.”

—Beveridge Report.

rightful successor of his father and so they settled down looking forward to their Pir for spiritual guidance.

After the accession ceremony for some time a few Hurs continued their activities either for the sake of the thrill they got out of it or ignorance of succession ceremony. During my contact with the Hurs I was so much impressed by their chivalry, desert mobility, efficient appreciation of the situation and their willingness to sacrifice their lives for their cause that I strongly recommended them for employment during Indo-Pakistan war 1965. On the basis of my recommendations the Commander-in-Chief of the Army requested the Government for employment of the Hurs, in a guerrilla role. The request was acceded to and Lashkars of Hurs were attached to the Army for operations in the desert area.

The situation at the time was that the Indians had invaded Sind along the Jodhpur railway line in the Thar Dessert. To check their advance we deployed a Brigade group against them. The Hur Lashkars were to operate against the flanks and rear of the every with the task of harassing and gitting the enemy by:—

- (a) Attacks on his lines of communications.
- (b) Soiping at camps at night.
- (c) Threatening his vulnerable flanks.
- (d) Infiltration in their administrative area and sabotage of his suppliers.

The hur operations were greatly facilitated by our air superiority. They knew the area intimately and were capable of keeping their movements secret both by day and night. They were literally thrilled by the task allotted to them. They appeared in strength from no where and stormed the enemies lines of communications and logistic areas, thus breaking down their supply system and forcing them to reback. The invaders having become gittery withdrew beyond the Indo Pakistan border and thus exposing their own deesert area to our heroes. As the Marwar desert area was also will known to our heroes therefore they dominated it with comparative ease forcing the Indians to withdraw from their forward positions. As a result of the haveoc they played with the enemy we had a large tract of the Indian desert in our possession at the time of declaration of cease fire.

In my capacity as the Quarter Master General of the Pakistan Army I was in the nerve centre of G.H.Q. and hence in a position to obtain a first hand information about the activities of the armies. It was in the said capacity that I kept an eye on the Hur activities during the first Indo Pakistan war. As a result of my close association with the brotherhood I have come to the conclusion that in the desert guerrilla warfare they can be seldom equalled and never surpassed by non-soldiers.

HISTORICAL MAPS OF SIND

CAMPAIGNS OF MAHMUDGHAZNAVI'S GOVERNOR ABDURRAZZAQ IN SIND 1026 A.D.



SIND'S TRADE ROUTES



with middle east and india 1st century A.D.

BRITISH RELATIONS WITH SINDH

Mansurul Bari.

British relations with Sind were never cordial, on the contrary Sind was always neglected by them despite its commercial and navigational importance. Importance of Sind was historically and geographically great. It was the birthplace of an old civilization which had witnessed its zenith and decline in the past. Majestic Bolan pass added much to its beauty and dignity whereas Indus formed a natural outlet to the commerce of North Western India and to the East. The easiest passes through the formidable mountain barrier were approached through Sindh. Besides, Sindh also served as a highway to the Panjab.

Relations of the British with Sindh began in about A.D. 1758 when the East India company was accorded permission to establish a factory at Thatha and send an Agent at the Court of Ameer of Sindh. It appears though the British were eager in having good relations with Sind yet they did not evince such intentions.

The British ignored Sindh as if it was a waste of dust Sand or arid rock thinly covered with different agriculturist forest products and offered few or no commercial advantages.¹ But this attitude did not remain unchanged for long. Probably they were watching the situation all the time very closely and as soon as they realised its importance for commercial, navigational and political purposes, the British set out to work in their characteristic fashion.

The British always harboured a desire to have all the passed of India under their control for safer trade with other countries. Neighbouring countries like China and Russia had also their ever interest in increasing their trade with other countries of the world. China particularly tried her utmost. For the fulfilment of the ambition for expanding trade, safer and shortens Caravan routes were a desideration for the powers interested in expansion of trade and political influence.

Factually, the Chinese were in real peril due to Russian pressure. Despite every difficulty the Russians had succeeded in capturing markets in China and Europe. But China had no link in the rest with the outside world except through the Silk route which connected Europe through two different routes viz; North and South. The northern route to Afghanistan lay through the Khyber pass, and the most southern route passed through the territories of Sindh.

1. Sind Directory.